A BIOGRAPHY FROM EPIC RECORDS

SHUGGIE OTIS

Shuggie Otis is the sixteen-year-old son of Johnny Otis, and Shuggie Otis was just awarded the "Young Man of the Year" award by Leonard Feather of the Los Angeles Times. Shuggie earned this award for his guitar playing on Columbia's album, "Kooper Session." Although Shuggie is just sixteen, he is considered to be one of the best blues-rock guitarists in the country. Shuggie's Epic albums are "Cuttin' Up," with The Johnny Otis Show, and "Here Comes Shuggie Otis," his first solo album. In addition to writing many of the songs on these albums with Johnny, Shuggie sings and plays guitar, bass, harmonica and organ.

Shuggie was born on November 30, 1953, in Los Angeles, and it was only natural that he would become interested in music with a father like Johnny Otis. From infancy, Shuggie was raised on a diet of rhythm and blues provided by his father and all the other great musicians in his father's bands. By his early teens, Shuggie could already play a number of instruments remarkably well. In fact, by elementary school, he had already won an award for his drumming.

At age twelve, Shuggie played his first professional gig--it was on bass at the Jazzville club in San Diego. He soon began playing with Johnny's band; to look old enough to be in the band, he painted on a moustache.

At age thirteen, he began doing studio work. Although Shuggie excelled on guitar, he also played bass, drums, organ, piano and harmonica.

Then, at the end of 1968, Shuggie and Johnny cut an album called "Cold Shot." For his exceptional guitar playing on this record, Shuggie received his first national recognition. Numerous critics commented on the maturity of performance and his already solid musical accomplishments.

"Cold Shot" soon made its way into the hands of Columbia's John Hammond and Epic's Larry Cohn,and Shuggie was subsequently signed to a long-term Epic recording contract. The album also found its way to Mike Bloomfield and Al Kooper. Kooper was so impressed with Shuggie's talent that he flew to California to ask Shuggie to make an album with him--thus came the "Kooper Session" album featuring

Shuggie Otis. Leonard Feather in the Los Angeles Times wrote about Shuggie's latest effort by saying "He tells it like it was decades before he was born and runs off with the honors."

The name Shuggie? Well, his mother affectionately called him Sugar, which as the years lengthened was shortened to Shuggie.

Considering Shuggie's youth, there isn't much more a biography can say. For as an artist, Shuggie is grown up.

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